

INTERSTATE BOARD ASKS MORE POWER

Seeks Authority to Probe
All Matters Affecting
Railway Safety.

DESIRES CONTROL OF CAPITALIZATION

Requests Right to Compel Use of
Block Signals and All-
Steel Cars.

Washington, Dec. 19.—Emphasizing the necessity for further action by the federal government to provide greater safety for travellers and employees upon American railroads, the Interstate Commerce Commission, in its annual report, submitted to Congress to-day, makes vigorous recommendations for additional powers over the physical construction and operation of the roads.

The commission also recommends that it be given authority to supervise the issue of railroad securities and some measure of control over the capitalization.

Conditions disclosed by the commission's investigation of railroad accidents during the year present a situation which, the commission believes, ought to be the subject of immediate legislation. Seventy-six accidents investigated comprised fifty-one collisions and twenty-five derailments and caused the death of 283 and the injury of 1,880 persons. Commenting upon these facts, the report says:

"The commission again is compelled to note the exceedingly large proportion of train accidents due to dereliction of duty on the part of employees. Fifty-six of the accidents investigated during the year, or nearly 74 per cent of the whole number, were directly caused by mistakes of employees.

Wreck Causes Vary Little.

"These mistakes were of the same nature as those noted by the commission in its last annual report, namely, disregard of fixed signals; improper flagging; failure to obey train orders; improper checking of train registers; misunderstanding of orders; occupying main track on time of superior train; block operator allowed train to enter occupied block; dispatcher used improper form of order; operator made mistake copying order; switch left open in face of approaching train; excessive speed.

"These errors are exactly the ones which figure in the causes of train accidents year after year. Their persistence shows that either a great majority of these disasters are unavoidable, or there exists a widespread lack of intelligent and well-directed effort to minimize the mistakes of employees in the operation of trains.

"It is not believed that all those accidents which are caused by the mistakes of employees are unavoidable. It is quite true that man is prone to error, and as long as absolute reliance is placed upon the human element in the operation of trains accidents are bound to occur, but until it can be shown that all reasonable and proper measures have been taken for its prevention no accident can be classed as unavoidable.

"The evidence is that in the main the rules are understood, but they are habitually violated by employees who are charged with responsibility for the safe movement of trains.

"The evidence also is that in many cases operating officers are cognizant of this habitual disregard of rules and no proper steps are taken to correct the evil. Many operating officers seem to proceed upon the theory that their responsibility ends with the promulgation of rules.

"On very many railroads employees are not examined on the operating rules except at the time of their promotion, and only the most perfunctory efforts are made to determine their fitness to perform the duties assigned to them.

Money Put Above Safety.

"This lack of supervision and inspection with respect to matters affecting the safety of trains is unexplainable when the careful supervision of all matters directly affecting the revenue of the roads is considered. The auditing and checking systems used for detecting the dishonesty of employees are marvellous of ingenuity and careful attention to detail, but means of determining whether trains are operated in accordance with the requirements of safety and in conformity with the rules are almost entirely lacking.

"In previous reports the commission has recommended legislation requiring the standardization of operating rules. It is vital to the safe movement of trains that rules should be explicit and uniform in character. To this end federal legislation is necessary.

"Disobedience of signal indications on block signalled railroads is one of the most serious phases of the accident situation. Such disobedience often occurs in connection with the movement of important high speed passenger trains.

"Fourteen of the investigated accidents which have occurred on block signalled roads since July 1, 1911, were caused by engineers running by stop signals or failing to reduce speed as directed by caution signals. In these 14 accidents 105 persons were killed and 211 injured. In 7 of these accidents the culpable engineers themselves were killed.

"These facts are brought to the attention of the Congress, with the suggestion that these failures indicate the necessity for the development and perfection of some system of automatic train control to be used in connection with existing signal systems.

Among the important recommendations for new legislation are the following:

That one period be fixed for the be-

ginning of all actions relating to transportation charges, and that that period be within three years from the completion of the service as to which damages are claimed.

That a carrier which fails to demand payment of charges for any transportation service within a period of ninety days shall be deemed guilty of giving a rebate to the shipper.

That all suits brought to enforce or set aside orders of the commission be directly under the supervision of the commission. Instead of, as now, under the direction of the Department of Justice, and that the commission be charged primarily with the duty of presenting such cases in court subject to the right of the Department of Justice or private individuals to intervene to protect public or private interests.

Wants Control of Capital.

That the commission be authorized to make orders, after investigation, respecting the construction and maintenance of the physical properties of railroads engaged in interstate commerce and rules and regulations pertaining to the use and operation of such properties.

That the commission be given control and supervision over railway capitalization.

That, further to minimize the danger of accidents, the commission be empowered "to require the use of block signal systems and to require the adoption and use of steel or steel underframe cars in passenger service."

That explicit authority be given the commission to examine all books and papers of common carriers subject to the law.

That the commission be relieved of all duties under the parcel post law, "or that such duties and the standard to be applied be more clearly stated."

The report gives some consideration to the law providing for physical valuation of railroads. Up to the present time it has not been possible to do more than prepare an outline of the plan.

WILSON AGAIN AT WORK

President Spends a Busy Day
—Will Soon Go South.

[From The Tribune Bureau.]

Washington, Dec. 19.—The President spent a busy day, holding the regular Cabinet meeting this afternoon and this afternoon attending the laying of the cornerstone of the Central Presbyterian Church, at 18th and Irving streets, N. W. Before the Cabinet meeting the President and the Secretary of State conferred for more than an hour. Secretary Bryan left for Florida later, and before he returns it is expected that President Wilson will have gone South for a vacation, so that several matters, including the Mexican situation and the Federal Reserve Board, were taken up.

It was officially stated that President Wilson had reached no decision regarding the personnel of the Reserve Board, although several names were under consideration. It is understood that Secretary Bryan suggested several. While the Secretary of the Treasury is supposed to have considerable to say about the composition of the board, it is probable that Secretary Bryan's views will receive due consideration.

ZELAYA TO GO ON MONDAY

Ex-President of Nicaragua Will
Then Leave United States.

[From The Tribune Bureau.]

Washington, Dec. 19.—The State Department recently addressed another inquiry to the counsel of José Santos Zelaya, ex-President of Nicaragua, who is in New York, as to when the former dictator intends to live up to his promise to get out of the country "within a reasonable time."

Counsel, having communicated with Zelaya, replied to-day that reservations had been made for the ex-President on the steamship Lorraine, which is to leave New York next Monday, and that Zelaya would sail then. The Nicaraguan government's request, with supporting papers and evidence, for the extradition of Zelaya on the charge of having murdered two Nicaraguans in 1911, has reached the Nicaraguan Legation here, but on account of the agreement reached several weeks ago that the proceedings would be dropped if Zelaya would leave the United States and promise never to return, not to go to Nicaragua or anywhere else in Central America, no action has been taken.

CARABAOS TO BE CURBED

General Reprimand Will Be the
Extent of Their Punishment.

Washington, Dec. 19.—President Wilson approved to-day a report by Secretaries Garrison and Daniels on the salutes on administration policies which took place at a recent dinner of the military order of the Carabao, composed of army and navy officers.

It is understood the President will make a general statement expressing his disapproval and that future dinners will not be permitted to contain such features. It is not believed that any names will be mentioned or that demerits will be charged to any person, but the statement is expected to be one of a general reprimand.

Doctor Not an Abductor.

Dr. Geoffrey Westropp Macdougall, whose father was at one time Governor of Manitoba, Canada, and who has an office at No. 41 Washington Square South, was discharged by Magistrate Krotel, in the Harlem court yesterday, when he was arraigned on a charge of abducting Marion T. Earnshaw, daughter of Elmer E. Earnshaw, secretary-treasurer of the Caswell-Massey Drug Company. The girl was placed on parole for a period of six months.

ADMINISTRATION CURRENCY MEASURE PASSES SENATE

(Continued from first page.)

cally brought to the stage of achievement the second great purpose of the administration, closing the fight which began when the measure was introduced in the House on August 20. The contest did not become acute in the House of Representatives, where the overwhelming majority carried out the wishes of the administration. The bill was reported by Representative Glass on September 9 and passed nine days later. When it was referred to the Senate committee on September 18 the real struggle of the administration began.

For more than a month the Senate Banking and Currency Committee struggled with the bill, and all the force of the administration was brought to bear on recalcitrant Democrats who threatened to join the Republicans in writing a measure for a central bank. Some of the recalcitrants were brought back into line, but the President did not achieve a complete victory in the committee, which divided into two sections, each making a report to the Senate on November 22.

In the Senate the influence of the White House proved potent, and the long struggle was brought to a triumphant end by the Democrats in the passage of the bill to-night.

Senator Hitchcock, who cast his lot with the Republican members of the Banking and Currency Committee during the long fight to change the measure in defiance of the wishes of the President, returned to the Democratic fold at the eleventh hour. When the debate was drawing to a close he made the declaration that it had always been his purpose to vote for the bill, but he justified himself in the fight he has carried on with the Republicans by pointing out improvements incorporated in the measure in the Senate.

Changes Made by Senate.

These improvements were cited by the Senator:

The change in the character of the Federal Reserve Board.

Provision for the gradual transfer of reserves to the reserve banks.

Adoption of a plan for the insurance of bank deposits.

Taking six-months paper off the blacklist and authorizing investments of a certain portion of the capital of banks in farm mortgages.

Provision for the redemption of reserve notes at the Treasury in gold.

Increase in the gold reserve against federal reserve notes from 33-1/3 per cent in the House bill to 49 per cent and the tax on deficiency in reserves under this limit.

The reduction of the number of banks.

"I am glad the struggle is over," said Mr. Hitchcock. "It has been long and it has resulted in a greatly improved bill. I have my misgivings, of course, as others have. The prospect in the United States is not altogether bright. There are clouds in the sky. There may be dangers ahead. I join others, however, in hoping that the clouds may be dissipated and the dangers passed, and that this legislation may contribute to that result."

Weeks Explains Vote.

Senator Weeks, another member of the Banking and Currency Committee, also expressed regret that he had reached the parting of the ways with his Republican colleagues. Although there were many things in the measure which he regarded as defects, he said that he was not willing to set back the movement for currency reform which had been brought about by the agitation of the last few years, and particularly of the last few months.

"I should say," Senator Weeks added, "that the bill is about 75 per cent good and 25 per cent bad. Rather than sacrifice the good that is in it I shall part company with some of those with whom I have struggled and vote for the measure."

Senator Bristow declared that the evil far outweighed the good, adding: "If we wanted to add to the present volume of currency an additional quantity of more or less elastic currency we might have achieved that result by a slight modification of the Aldrich-Vreeland bill. That is all that is accomplished by this measure. It is a top-heavy system and I cannot give it my approval by voting for it."

Senators Smoot, Brandegee and several other Republicans expressed much the same view as Mr. Bristow, insisting that the dangers that might result from the derangement of the present banking system by the establishment of the system proposed in the Democratic bill invited risks too great for them to approve. At the same time they expressed regret that they did not have an opportunity to vote for a bill which would carry out what they regarded as proper currency reform.

A running fight was kept up on the measure during the entire day. The reserve features and the provision exempting the employees of the Federal Reserve Board from civil service requirements were singled out especially as the targets for attack. Each of the many amendments was defeated by a margin of from two to ten or more votes.

Marshall Breaks a Tie.

When the bill had passed from committee of the whole into the Senate, an amendment offered by Senator Brandegee to strike out the clause exempting the employees of the board from civil service requirements resulted in a tie vote—43 to 43. The Vice-President, announcing the tie promptly, added in an emphatic voice: "The Vice-President votes in the negative, and the amendment is lost," although it would have been lost without his vote.

After repeated attacks on the civil service feature had resulted in failure, and the opposition forces had fallen back and were ready to abandon the fight, Senator Jones offered an amendment authorizing the President to place the employees in question under the civil service if he desired to do so.

"You mean," interjected Senator Brandegee, "that the President ought

to be given an opportunity, after these jobs have been filled, to place them under civil service."

Senator Jones's reply was not heard above the confusion, but the Democrats, taking advantage of the opportunity, grabbed the amendment and inserted it in the bill by a vote of 63 to 14, many Republicans apparently taking the view that the question should be put up to the President.

Mrs. Wilson a Spectator.

Throughout the afternoon, when a vote on the bill was momentarily expected, Mrs. Wilson, with a party of friends from the White House; Secretary McAdoo and Joseph P. Tumulty, President Wilson's secretary, were interested spectators of the Senate's proceedings. Mrs. Wilson stayed in the private gallery until 7 o'clock, but left before the bill had passed. Galleries and the floor of the Senate were crowded throughout the day, and the passage of the measure was greeted with uncheered applause from the galleries.

Among the chief points of difference on the currency bill between the House and Senate are the following:

The House provided for twelve regional banks; the Senate for "from eight to twelve," discretion being left to the Federal Reserve Board.

The Senate added a provision creating a fund to guarantee the deposits of failed banks that are members of the reserve associations.

The House limited the rediscount of commercial paper at the regional banks to that maturing in ninety days; the Senate provided that 180-day agricultural paper could be accepted under certain limitations.

The gold reserve required of the regional reserve banks against circulating notes was placed at 33-1/3 per cent by the House and at 49 per cent by the Senate.

Banks would be permitted to loan on five-year farm mortgages by the Senate bill; on one-year mortgages by the House bill.

SUNDAY CLOSING FAILURE

Lessens Postoffice Efficiency,
Says Department Report.

Washington, Dec. 19.—The law prohibiting the opening of postoffices and the delivery of mail on Sunday has added largely to the cost of the postal service and "materially lessens its efficiency," according to the annual report of Daniel C. Roper, First Assistant Postmaster General, made public to-day. Mr. Roper suggests that it would be in the interest of both the service and the employees to amend the law so as to authorize Sunday work and grant compensatory time off to employees assigned to Sunday duty.

The experimental delivery of mail in villages has been a failure, Mr. Roper reports, and he recommends that the service be discontinued on June 30, 1914.

During the year ended June 30, 1913, 1,528 Presidential postmasters were appointed, 1,181 being named subsequent to March 4. The report estimates that 200,000,000 parcel post packages were handled during the first six months of the system's operation.

Northwest Bankers Unafraid.

[By Telegraph to The Tribune.]

St. Paul, Dec. 19.—Northwestern bankers will accept the currency bill with good grace. They predict that the period of readjustment will be brief, and say that no serious financial or industrial depression will occur.

FEATURES OF THE CURRENCY MEASURE

Not less than eight nor more than twelve reserve banks, with a capital of approximately \$100,000,000, in central reserve cities of as many districts, to be laid off by an organization committee.

Each reserve bank to establish as many branches in its district as may be deemed expedient.

Each reserve bank to be governed by nine directors, six elected by the member banks and three by the Federal Reserve Board.

System of reserve banks to be under control of a Federal Reserve Board consisting of the Secretary of the Treasury, ex officio, and six other members, appointed by the President by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, at \$12,000 a year.

Stock in each federal reserve bank to be subscribed by the member banks, each to take a sum equal to 6 per cent of its capital and surplus, to be paid for in installments. Stock unsubscribed for to be offered to the general public.

Including the estimated deposit of government funds of \$150,000,000, the reserves concentrated in the reserve banks will eventually be approximately \$700,000,000.

Reserve banks authorized to issue federal reserve notes on application of member banks on deposit of collateral in the form of liquid commercial paper and other specified securities. Notes to be redeemable in gold at the Treasury and in gold or lawful money at reserve banks.

Earnings of the reserve banks to be devoted to the payment of 6 per cent dividend to stockholders, the surplus to be used for payment of the public debt and insurance of deposits in member banks.

A Federal Advisory Council, consisting of as many members as there are reserve districts, established to confer directly with the Federal Reserve Board.

WOOD TO SUCCEED BARRY

Chief of Staff Will Be Assigned
to Governor's Island.

Washington, Dec. 19.—Secretary Garrison announced to-day that when Major General Leonard Wood leaves the office of Chief of Staff next April he will be assigned to command the Eastern Department, with headquarters at Governor's Island, New York. He will succeed Major General Thomas H. Barry, who will go to the Philippines.

Secretary Garrison made no announcement as to General Wood's successor as Chief of Staff.

BROOKDALE FARM SOLD

\$1,000,000 Estate of Dr. Ward
Bought by St. Louis Man.

Brookdale Farm, the fine estate of the late Dr. Leslie Ward, one of the vice-presidents of the Prudential Life Insurance Company, has been sold to Howard Cole, of St. Louis, for a price said to be in the neighborhood of \$200,000.

The property lies partly in Madison, N. J., and partly in Florham Park, on the Lackawanna Railroad, and comprises a tract of 617 acres, containing a massive stone house, barns and out buildings. It is said Dr. Ward spent approximately \$1,000,000 in bringing this property to a high state of development. It is near the estate of the late H. McK. Twombly.

TRANSIT PLANS SHOWN

O'Keeffe Tells Need of Action
on Queensboro Span.

Bridge Commissioner Arthur O'Keeffe last evening exhibited to members of the Queens Chamber of Commerce the drawings and profiles made by the Bridge Department for the changes to the Queensboro Bridge to accommodate it to the subway and elevated lines which are to cross it to join the transit systems of Manhattan with those of Queens under the dual transit system contracts. The affair took place in the rooms of the chamber in Long Island City.

Commissioner O'Keeffe was accompanied to Queens by Engineers C. M. Ingersoll and Alexander Johnson, who have been in charge of the preparation of the plans.

"We can complete the changes to the bridge within two and a half years," said Commissioner O'Keeffe, "after we get the necessary funds from the city. It is of the greatest importance that we get immediate action from the Board of Estimate on our request for \$2,000,000 to make these changes. If Queens is to get the service planned for it the Bridge Department must go to work at once."

Commissioner O'Keeffe announced the fact that his department is preparing a plan for the systematic development of the entire city, particularly as it refers to transportation problems. This plan will be presented to the Board of Estimate for adoption, but not with the expectation that money to do the work will be available at once. If the plan is once adopted, then whenever any request is made by any head of department he will have to make his plans according to the general city plan.

WOMAN SUES ALIENIST

Asks \$10,000 Damages Be-
cause He Called Her Insane.

Dr. Austin Flint, the alienist, was sued yesterday in the Supreme Court by Mrs. Elizabeth J. E. Smith, who lives at the Hotel Gotham. She asks \$10,000 damages for a statement which he made about her sanity. Dr. Flint has answered that he examined Mrs. Smith at her own request and that of John B. Stanchfield. Mrs. Smith had tried to retain Stanchfield to bring a suit for her against Dr. Reginald H. Sayre because he had expressed his opinion that the plaintiff was not of sound mind.

Dr. Flint examined Mrs. Smith, and then in the presence of Miss Susan Lutz is alleged to have said: "You have no cause of action against Dr. Sayre. The case, if it comes to trial, will be thrown out of court. Any court or jury would regard your testimony in support of such an action as insane."

GARRISON'S CLERK INSANE

Secretary's Confidential Man
Sent to Hospital.

[From The Tribune Bureau.]

Washington, Dec. 19.—Alexander J. Stenmont, confidential secretary of the Secretary of War, was arrested here this afternoon on charges of disorderly conduct and insanity. He was sent to the Washington Asylum Hospital for observation.

Detectives Berman, Grant and Armstrong heard Stenmont cursing as he came out of a downtown department store. They arrested him, and for two hours he refused to give his name. Walter R. Pedigo, private secretary to Secretary Garrison, and a clerk in the War Department made affidavits that they believed Stenmont of unsound mind, and he was sent to the hospital.

"For weeks Stenmont has been acting strangely," said Mr. Pedigo. "He would sit at his desk a whole day without speaking a dozen words."

Stenmont was confidential secretary to the former Secretary of War, Mr. Stimson.

PRESIDENT SIGNS HETCH-HETCHY ACT

Declares He Believes the Fears
of Its Opponents Are Not
Well Founded.

[From The Tribune Bureau.]

Washington, Dec. 19.—The President signed to-day the Hetch-hetchy act, which gives San Francisco the right to obtain its water supply from the Hetch-hetchy Valley and to generate electric power from the waters of that valley.

President Wilson gave out the following statement on signing the bill:

"I have signed this bill because it seemed to serve the pressing public needs of the region concerned better than they could be served in any other way, and yet did not impair the usefulness or materially detract from the beauty of the public domain.

"The bill was opposed by so many public spirited men, thoughtful of the interests of the people and of fine conscience in every matter of public concern, that I have naturally sought to scrutinize it very closely. I take the liberty of thinking that their fears and objections were not well founded.

"I believe the bill to be, on the whole, in the public interest, and I am the less uncertain in that judgment because I find it occurred in by men whose best energies have been devoted to conservation and the safeguarding of the people's interests, and many of whom have, besides, had a long experience in the public service which has made them circumspect in forming an opinion upon such matters."

DIRECTS HIS OWN RESCUE

Boy Wedged Under Trolley Car
Calmly Gives Orders.

Although William Kumarek, fourteen years old, was knocked down yesterday by a Third Avenue trolley car at 50th street and wedged under the front truck for more than twenty minutes, when he was finally rescued it was found that he had received no more serious injury than a fractured collarbone. It was necessary to call upon the nearest fire engine to furnish men and appliances to jack up the car sufficiently to permit the removal of the boy. He had passed under both feeders.

The rescuers were aided by Kumarek, who kept calm in spite of his predicament, and shouted to them in order that they might ascertain his position. He was taken to Bellevue Hospital.

BECKER'S MOTHER DIES

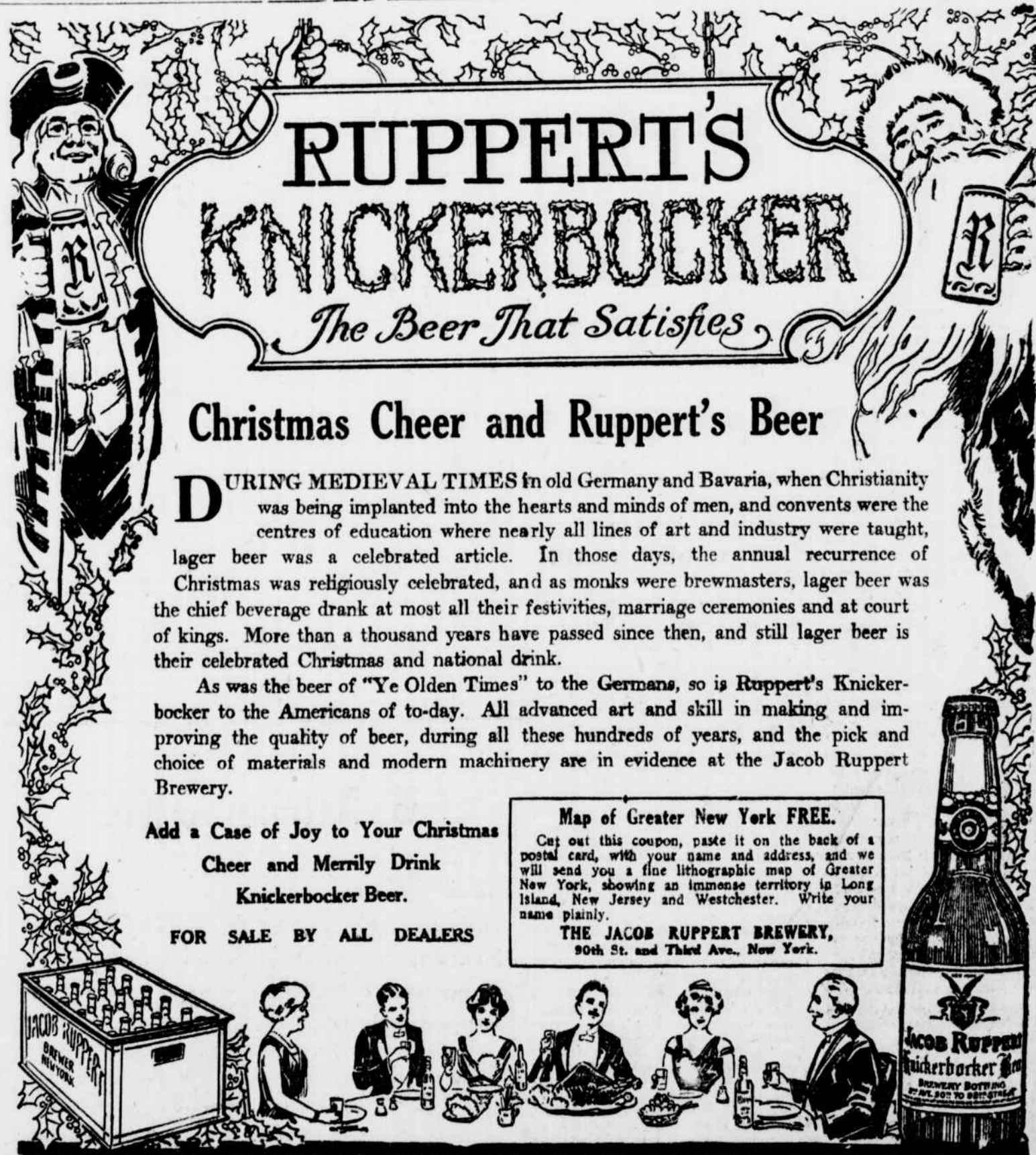
Ignorant of Son's Conviction—
He Grieves When Told.

Mrs. Mary Becker, mother of Charles Becker, the ex-police lieutenant, who is awaiting execution in Sing Sing prison for the murder of Herman Rosenthal, the gambler, died yesterday at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Guenther, No. 214 West 16th street. Mrs. Becker was ill at the time of the Rosenthal murder, and it is said to have died in ignorance of her son's misfortune.

Mrs. Becker's body will be taken to Calleson, N. Y., the old home of the Beckers, for burial. The body will be accompanied by Mrs. Guenther and another son, John Becker, also a police lieutenant. The wife of former Police Lieutenant Charles Becker visited the prison yesterday to tell her husband of his mother's death. On leaving the prison Mrs. Becker said that her husband had expressed great sorrow over the loss of his mother.

Want Banner Week for Seals.

Red Cross Christmas seal agents are making efforts to make the last week of the sale the most productive of the campaign. More agents are selling seals in this state than ever before.



RUPPERT'S KNICKERBOCKER

The Beer That Satisfies

Christmas Cheer and Ruppert's Beer

DURING MEDIEVAL TIMES in old Germany and Bavaria, when Christianity was being implanted into the hearts and minds of men, and convents were the centres of education where nearly all lines of art and industry were taught, lager beer was a celebrated article. In those days, the annual recurrence of Christmas was religiously celebrated, and as monks were brewmasters, lager beer was the chief beverage drunk at most all their festivities, marriage ceremonies and at court of kings. More than a thousand years have passed since then, and still lager beer is their celebrated Christmas and national drink.

As was the beer of "Ye Olden Times" to the Germans, so is Ruppert's Knickerbocker to the Americans of to-day. All advanced art and skill in making and improving the quality of beer, during all these hundreds of years, and the pick and choice of materials and modern machinery are in evidence at the Jacob Ruppert Brewery.


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